

# Joseph Lee Named 2014 New Hampshire Teacher Of The Year

Commissioner of Education Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D., announced that Joseph Lee, a social studies teacher at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, is the 2014 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year. In receiving this award, Mr. Lee becomes New Hampshire's candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

"In order to help our students develop the skills and innovative thinking necessary to succeed in the 21st century economy, New Hampshire needs engaging, high-quality teachers like Joseph Lee," Governor Maggie Hassan said. "Joseph's dedication to his students at Pinkerton Academy and his work to help them achieve an even brighter future epitomizes the very best of our hard-working educators across the Granite State. I want to commend Joseph Lee for this well-deserved recognition and to thank all of New Hampshire's educators for preparing our students to succeed and thrive."

"Selecting a Teacher of the Year is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding and dedicated people teaching in New Hampshire schools," said Commissioner Barry. "Every year the selection committee is amazed by how difficult it is to select a recipient to continue the proud tradition of teaching excellence in our state. Joey will serve as a leader and ambassador for all the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning in their classrooms."

Lee has been teaching for six years, all of them at Pinkerton Academy. The selection committee recognized his conviction and passion to teaching, the energy he brings to the classroom and his philosophy of making every kid better. He believes it is his job to teach each student and he does this through innumerable techniques. In addition to teaching Joey is also the golf and hockey coach as well as the advisor to the China Exchange program.

Joey wrote in his application, "I am preparing for my seventh year. I still get those feelings of nervousness, anxiety, and excitement, but I now overcome those feelings with confidence that I can do my best. I know now I can relate content to real life experience, engage student interest with a flexible, thematic, and clear curriculum establishing mutually respectful and honest relationships built on mutual effort with each student." He also wrote, "I will continue to hold myself to high standards pushing the envelope of what I am responsible for."

Headmaster, Mary Anderson, wrote in her letter of recommendation, "Joe Lee is an exceptional person, with complete dedication to his students and his teaching. Because of this dedication and continued commitment to teaching, I would give him my highest and most enthusiastic recommendation for Teacher of the Year."

New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Finalists are: Jane (Jennie) Calnan a reading specialist at Dr. George Emerson Elementary, Fitzwilliam; Carrie Charette an English teacher at Franklin High School; Janice Ellerin a life science teacher at Hollis Brookline Middle School; and Lori-Lyn Griffin a fifth grade science teacher at Hampstead Middle School.

In New Hampshire, Hannaford Supermarkets is proud to partner with the Department of Education to sponsor the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year program. As a company, Hannaford is committed to enriching the quality of life in the communities they serve. One way to do this is by supporting the Teacher of the Year Program that recognizes the significant contributions made by the many dedicated professionals who choose to make teaching their calling.

Each year, New Hampshire schools take part in the State and National Teacher of the Year Program. The National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the ING Foundation and Target, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers, in partnership with the University of Phoenix Foundation and People to People Ambassador Programs. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

In early December, these finalists and the 2014 NH Teacher of the Year will be invited to a "Leadership in Education Banquet" to celebrate their accomplishments along with other distinguished educators in the State. At this banquet they will receive a classroom grant from Hannaford Supermarkets.

The selection process for the 2014 NH Teacher of the Year program was coordinated by a committee including: Jean-Marie Beauchemin, Hannaford Supermarkets Retail Operations Support Specialist; Cindy Chagnon, NH State Board of Education; Ginny Clifford, Bureau of Credentialing, NH Department of Education; Peggy McAllister, NH Association of School Principals Executive Director; Heidi Welch, 2013 NH Teacher of the Year; and Bethany Bernasconi, 2012 NH Teacher of the Year.

For more information about this and other award/recognition programs coordinated through the Department of Education log on to [www.education.nh.gov/recognition/index.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/recognition/index.htm) or contact Lori Temple, Public Information Officer at (603) 271-6646 or e-mail [Lori.Temple@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Lori.Temple@doe.nh.gov). To contact Pinkerton Academy please call (603) 437-5200.

*Every day a New Hampshire teacher makes a difference in the life of a child. Every year the NH Department of Education honors outstanding teachers who make their communities, profession, and the world a better place.*